

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 24 and 26-32, without prejudice, amend claims 1-21, and add new claims 34-54, as shown below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An airway device for human or animal use comprising an airway tube having a distal end and a proximal end, the distal end of which is surrounded by a laryngeal cuff, wherein the cuff is non-inflatable and is pre-formed in a shape such that a face region of the cuff is adapted to fit snugly over the laryngeal inlet of a patient, and wherein the external profile of the tube is substantially uniform between the distal end of the tube where it starts to meet the cuff and the proximal end of the tube, and wherein the face region of the cuff is formed from a first material [[with]]having a first Shore hardness on the A scale of between 0 to 30, and wherein the airway tube together with the a dorsal part of the cuff are made from a second material having a second Shore hardness different from the first material, such that the face of the cuff is made of a softer material than the airway tube and the dorsal part of the cuff.

Claim 2 (currently amended): [[An]]The airway device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the face region of the cuff is formed from a material of Shore hardness on the A scale of between 0 and 20.

Claim 3 (currently amended): [[An]]The airway device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the face region of the cuff is formed from a material of Shore hardness on the A scale of between 0 and 5.

Claim 4 (currently amended): [[An]]The airway device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the profile of the airway tube is substantially circular.

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Claim 5 (currently amended): [[An]]The airway device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the profile of the airway tube is substantially elliptical.

Claim 6 (currently amended): [[An]]The airway device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the device further comprises a gastric tube passageway extending from the distal end of the airway tube to the proximal end of the cuff.

Claim 7 (currently amended): [[An]]The airway device as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the gastric tube passageway is housed substantially within the body of the device.

Claim 8 (currently amended): [[An]]The airway device according to Claim 6 wherein the distal end exit of the gastric tube passageway exits the cuff centrally, that is along the line of the central longitudinal axis of the device.

Claim 9 (currently amended): [[An]]The airway device according to Claim 6 wherein the distal end exit of the gastric tube passageway is displaced to one side of the central longitudinal axis of the device.

Claim 10 (currently amended): [[A]]The airway device according to Claim 1 wherein the device further comprises one or more flexible flanges extending around the opening in the face region of the cuff.

Claim 11 (currently amended): [[A]]The airway device according to Claim 10 wherein the flexible flanges extend substantially around the entire circumference of the opening in the cuff.

Claim 12 (currently amended): [[A]]The airway device according to Claim 10 wherein a plurality of flanges are provided said flanges being space apart radially around the opening one from another such that the flanges are substantially concentric.

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Claim 13 (currently amended): [[A]]The airway device according to Claim 1 wherein said device further comprises a connector adapted to connect the proximal end of the airway tube to a gas supply.

Claim 14 (currently amended): [[A]]The airway device according to Claim 13 wherein said connector extends into said airway tube and at least part way along the length of said airway tube to act as a bite protector to prevent a patient from constricting the airway tube by biting on it.

Claim 15 (currently amended): [[A]]The airway device as claimed in Claim 13 wherein said connector fits into an internal annular recess at the proximal end of the airway tube such that the diameter, or internal cross-section of the airway tube where the tube is non-circular internally, remains substantially constant along the length of the tube when the connector is in place.

Claim 16 (currently amended): [[An]]The airway device according to Claim 15 wherein the distal end of the connector abuts in use a shoulder in the airway tube to prevent the connector from passing into the airway tube beyond a certain point.

Claim 17 (currently amended): [[An]]The airway device according to Claim 1 wherein the face of the laryngeal cuff is adapted to form an anatomical fit over the laryngeal inlet of a patient incorporates protuberances designed to form a good seal with the pyriform fossae and aryepiglottic folds of the laryngeal inlet of the patient.

Claim 18 (currently amended): [[An]]The airway device according to Claim 17 wherein the face of the laryngeal cuff adapted to form an anatomical fit over the laryngeal inlet of a patient incorporates protuberances designed to form a good seal with the valleculae, epiglottis, aryepiglottic folds, pyriform fossae and around the thyroid & cricoid cartilages.

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Claim 19 (currently amended): [[An]]The airway device according to Claim 1 wherein the face of the laryngeal cuff adapted to fit anatomically over the laryngeal framework of a patient incorporates grooves designed to allow passage of vital arteries, veins and nerves supplying the laryngeal framework.

Claim 20 (currently amended): [[An]]The airway device according to Claim 1 wherein a distal portion of the laryngeal cuff the distal tip of the laryngeal cup is so sized and shaped as to remain above the upper oesophageal sphincter in use.

Claim 21 (currently amended): [[An]]The airway device according to Claim 20 wherein the distal portion tip of the laryngeal cuff cup is substantially concave in shape.

Claims 22-33 (cancelled).

Claim 34 (new): An airway device for human or animal use comprising an airway tube having a distal end and a proximal end, the distal end of which is surrounded by a laryngeal cuff, wherein the laryngeal cuff is non-inflatable and is pre-formed in a shape such that a face region of the cuff is adapted to fit snugly over and form a seal with the laryngeal inlet of a patient, and wherein the external profile of the airway tube is substantially uniform between the distal end of the airway tube where it starts to meet the cuff and the proximal end of the airway tube, and wherein the face region of the laryngeal cuff is formed from a first material having a first Shore hardness on the A scale of between 0 to 30, and wherein a dorsal part of the cuff is made from a second material having a second Shore hardness different from the first material, such that the face of the cuff is made of a softer material than the dorsal part of the cuff.

Claim 35 (new): The airway device as claimed in Claim 34 wherein the face region of the cuff is formed from a material of Shore hardness on the A scale of between 0 and 20.

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Claim 36 (new): The airway device as claimed in Claim 34 wherein the face region of the laryngeal cuff is formed from a material of Shore hardness on the A scale of between 0 and 5.

Claim 37 (currently amended): The airway device as claimed in Claim 34 wherein the profile of the airway tube is substantially circular.

Claim 38 (new): The airway device as claimed in Claim 34 wherein the profile of the airway tube is substantially elliptical.

Claim 39 (new): The airway device as claimed in Claim 34 wherein the device further comprises a gastric tube passageway extending from the distal end of the airway tube to the proximal end of the cuff.

Claim 40 (new): The airway device as claimed in Claim 39 wherein the gastric tube passageway is housed substantially within the body of the device.

Claim 41(new): The airway device according to Claim 39 wherein the distal end exit of the gastric tube passageway exits the cuff centrally, that is along the line of the central longitudinal axis of the device.

Claim 42 (new): The airway device according to Claim 40 wherein the distal end exit of the gastric tube passageway is displaced to one side of the central longitudinal axis of the device.

Claim 43 (new): The airway device according to Claim 34 wherein the device further comprises one or more flexible flanges extending around the opening in the face region of the cuff.

Claim 44 (new): The airway device according to Claim 43 wherein the flexible flanges extend substantially around the entire circumference of the opening in the cuff.

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Claim 45 (new): The airway device according to Claim 43 wherein a plurality of flanges are provided said flanges being space apart radially around the opening one from another such that the flanges are substantially concentric.

Claim 46 (new): The airway device according to Claim 34 wherein said device further comprises a connector adapted to connect the proximal end of the airway tube to a gas supply.

Claim 47 (new): The airway device according to Claim 46 wherein said connector extends into said airway tube and at least part way along the length of said airway tube to act as a bite protector to prevent a patient from constricting the airway tube by biting on it.

Claim 48 (new): The airway device as claimed in Claim 46 wherein said connector fits into an internal annular recess at the proximal end of the airway tube such that the diameter, or internal cross-section of the airway tube where the tube is non-circular internally, remains substantially constant along the length of the tube when the connector is in place.

Claim 49 (new): The airway device according to Claim 48 wherein the distal end of the connector abuts in use a shoulder in the airway tube to prevent the connector from passing into the airway tube beyond a certain point.

Claim 50 (new): The airway device according to Claim 34 wherein the face of the laryngeal cuff is adapted to form an anatomical fit over the laryngeal inlet of a patient incorporates protuberances designed to form a good seal with the pyriform fossae and aryepiglottic folds of the laryngeal inlet of the patient.

Claim 51 (currently amended): The airway device according to Claim 50 wherein the face of the laryngeal cuff adapted to form an anatomical fit over the laryngeal inlet of a patient incorporates protuberances designed to form a good seal with the valleculae, epiglottis, aryepiglottic folds, pyriform fossae and around the thyroid & cricoid cartilages.

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Claim 52 (currently amended): The airway device according to Claim 34 wherein the face of the laryngeal cuff adapted to fit anatomically over the laryngeal framework of a patient incorporates grooves designed to allow passage of vital arteries, veins and nerves supplying the laryngeal framework.

Claim 53 (new): The airway device according to Claim 34 wherein a distal portion of the laryngeal cuff is so sized and shaped as to remain above the upper oesophageal sphincter in use.

Claim 54 (new): The airway device according to Claim 53 wherein the distal portion of the laryngeal cuff is substantially concave in shape.

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